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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
DHA-02 CU-04 /084 W
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R 141330Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2462
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0024

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EGEN, SGEN, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: S.A. RACE RELATIONS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE

1. S.A. INSTITUTE FOR RACE RELATIONS HELD A MAJOR CONFERENCE JAN. 11-14 ON TOPIC OF "THE URGENT NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA." REPORTED ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDRESSES BY NUMBER OF LEADING S.A. ACADEMICS, CHURCH FIGURES AND BUSINESSMEN.

2. CONFERENCE HIGHPOINTS INCLUDED:

A. OPENING ADDRESS BY HULETTS GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR, DR. C. VAN DER POL, WHICH WAS SEEN IN SOME QUARTERS AS A COMMENT ON PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S WARNING TO BUSINESSMEN TO KEEP OUT OF POLITICS. VAN DER POL SAID S.A. BLACKS WOULD USE POLITICAL FREEDOM TO PROMOTE A SYSTEM PREOCCUPIED--AS THE MARXIST SYSTEM IS PREOCCUPIED--WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH NOT THE CREATION OF IT. BLACKS IN SOWETO AND KWA MASHU (DURBAN) RIGHTLY SAW THAT THE S.A. FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM WAS FOR WHITES ONLY SINCE BLACKS ARE PREVENTED FROM DOING THE THINGS NECESSARY TO BECOME PART OF THE SYSTEM. VAN DER POL CALLED ON BUSINESS-
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MEN TO ACT LIKE PROGRESSIVES IF THEY CHOSE TO TALK LIKE THEM. HE URGED THAT A NEW SHARING SYSTEM BE CREATED IN CONSULTATION FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

B. LEN ABRAHAMSE, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF NEDBANK-UAL AND SYFRETS GROUPS, OPINED THAT SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD BE EARNING 50 PERCENT MORE TODAY IF THERE HAD BEEN INTEGRATION OVER THE

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PAST 30 YEARS. HE CALCULATED THAT "ON A CONSERVATIVE BASIS" THE COST OF APARTHEID TO SOUTH AFRICA'S GNP IN THE PAST YEAR WAS ABOUT R13 BILLION AND THAT EXCEPT FOR APARTHEID THE SOUTH AFRICAN GDP IN 1976 WOULD HAVE BEEN R63 BILLION INSTEAD OF R27 BILLION. ABRAHAMSE DEPLORED THAT THE BIGGEST LOSS TO SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN THE LACK OF DEVELOPMENT OF A STABLE NON-WHITE MIDDLE CLASS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOWED THE LARGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BOTTOM AND TOP 20 PERCENT OF EARNERS OF ANY MAJOR WORLD COUNTRY.

:. UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN SOCIOLOGY LECTURER MICHAEL SAVAGE CRITICIZED THE S.A. PASS LAW SYSTEM WHICH HE CLAIMED CONSERVATIVELY COST R113 MILLION PER YEAR TO OPERATE. IN CONTRAST HE SAID, THE COMPLETE ELECTRIFICATION OF SOWETO WOULD COST ONLY R35 MILLION AND THE AFRICAN HOUSING BACKLOG IN JOHANNESBURG COULD BE WIPED OUT WITH R18.2 MILLION.

D. UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND DEAN AND INKATHA GENERAL SECRETARY, DR. S.M.E. BENGU, SAID THAT BLACKS NOW REJECTED

PROPERTY AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE VOTERS' FRANCHISE, AS WELL AS WHITE LIBERALS' PRACTICE OF EMBRACING "THE AFRICAN CAPITALISTIC MIDDLE CLASS TO JOIN THEM IN SUPPRESSING THE INTERESTS OF THE POOR AND UNEDUCATED MASSES." BENGU FOUND BLACKS NOW CAPABLE OF FASHIONING A NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM AND IDEOLOGY WHICH WOULD BE TRULY AFRICAN AND DEMOCRATIC.

3. IRR CONFERENCE WAS ALSO ADDRESSED BY NORMAN BROMBERGER AND DAVID WELSH, CAPE TOWN UNIV; MICHAEL RANTHO AND PROFESSOR
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G. BOZZOLI OF WITWATERSRAND UNIV; DR. MANAS BUTHELEZI; PROFESSOR LAWRENCE SCHLEMMER, UNIV. NATAL AND CANON EDGAR BROOKES, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY CHAIRMAN. DETAILS OF THEIR COMMENTS BY FOLLOWING AIRGRAM.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Subject: S.A. RACE RELATIONS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE
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